

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CA-01 HA-05 SMS-01 VO-05 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 NEA-10 /101 W  
-----108339 141846Z /42

R 131111Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3354  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5077

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR PGOV NL UR  
SUBJECT: SOVIETS RECEIVE BAD PUBLICITY FROM VISA REFUSAL TO MP

1. A DELEGATION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HAS  
CANCELLED A PLANNED TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE  
THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE DID NOT ISSUE A VISA TO ONE OF THE  
DELEGATION MEMBERS. HANS GUALTHERIE VAN WEEZEL (CDA)  
SAID THAT HIS SEPTEMBER 4 REQUEST FOR A VISA HAD NOT BEEN  
ANSWERED AND HE WAS UNABLE TO PLAN FOR THE TRIP WHICH WAS  
TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 11. PRESS STORIES REPORT THAT  
MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION BELIEVE THAT VAN WEEZEL MAY NOT  
HAVE RECEIVED HIS VISA BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN  
GENERATING PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT (STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS)  
FOR SOVIET DISSIDENTS SUCH AS SHCHARANSKY.

2. THE DELEGATION'S VISIT HAD BEEN ORGANIZED BY THE  
NETHERLANDS COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION  
IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION FROM ITS SOVIET "SISTER  
ORGANIZATION." SECOND CHAMBER MEMBERS DE VRIES (PVDA),  
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FRINKING (CDA), WALTMANS (PPR), KAPPEIJNE VAN DE COPPELLO  
(VVD), AND SCHOLTEN (CDA) WERE SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL; HOWEVER,  
KAPPEIJNE VAN DE COPPELLO DROPPED OUT BECAUSE OF HEALTH  
REASONS. SCHOLTEN ALSO CANCELLED AND VAN WEEZEL WAS  
SELECTED BY THE CDA'S SECOND CHAMBER FACTION TO REPLACE HIM.  
THUS THE LATE VISA REQUEST.

3. VAN WEEZEL TOLD EMBOFF THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR ROMANOV HAD ASKED HIM TO COME TO THE EMBASSY LAST WEEK WHILE HE ARRANGED FOR A VISA. WHEN HE SHOWED UP, HE WAS TOLD THAT NO RANKING OFFICER WAS PRESENT AND THE VISA WAS UNAVAILABLE. VAN WEEZEL SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD REALLY GOOFED AND ADMITTED THAT HE WAS DELIBERATELY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PUBLICITY WHICH ALWAYS RESULTS WHEN AN MP IS SEEN BY THE DUTCH PUBLIC AS STANDING UP IN SUPPORT OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD KEEP HIS VISA REQUEST PENDING IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON FOR A POSSIBLE TRIP IN THE WINTER.

4. ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE GROUP, DE VRIES, TOLD US THAT HE ALSO FELT THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD HANDLED THE MATTER VERY POORLY. HE SAID THE INVITATION HAD COME FROM ALEKSEY SHITIKOV IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY AND THIS SHOULD HAVE CARRIED SOME WEIGHT WITH THE EMBASSY. EVEN AFTER THE CANCELLATION OF THE VISIT, AMBASSADOR ROMANOV COULD HAVE MADE AN APPROPRIATE GESTURE OF UNDERSTANDING AND TRIED TO RESCHEDULE THE VISIT, BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD FROM HIM. DE VRIES SAID HE FELT THE TRIP HAD TO BE CONSIDERED CANCELLED INASMUCH AS IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT NOW FOR THE SOVIETS TO INVITE THE GROUP AGAIN.

5. COMMENT: WHATEVER THE REASON - BUREAUCRATIC OR  
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POLITICAL - THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE HAS RECEIVED ANOTHER DOSE OF BAD PUBLICITY. DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS CAN BE TESTY AND AN OCCASIONAL PULLING OF THE TAIL OF THE SOVIET BEAR IS CONSIDERED QUITE ACCEPTABLE. THE SOVIET TREATMENT OF JEWISH DISSIDENTS HAS REINFORCED THE DEEP MISTRUST WITH WHICH MOST DUTCH CITIZENS VIEW THE SOVIET UNION; EPISODES LIKE THIS SHOW THAT POLITICIANS SUCH AS GUALTHERIE VAN WEEZEL ARE NOT RELUCTANT TO USE THAT MISTRUST FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

JOSEPH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, VISAS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SOVIETS RECEIVE BAD PUBLICITY FROM VISA REFUSAL TO MP  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PGOV, NL, UR  
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